

REMARKS/AGRUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered in response to the Office Action dated November 4, 2003. Consideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 16-25, 32-38, 42-46, 50-52, 55-59, and 62-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,344,853 of Knight ("Knight").

Claims 6-15, 26-31, 39-41, 47-49, 53-54, and 60-61 are objected to as being dependent upon a base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 64-69 are allowed.

Claims 1-69 are presently pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102 (e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 16-25, 32-38, 42-46, 50-52, 55-59, and 62-63 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Knight. Applicants submit that claims 1-5, 16-25, 32-38, 42-46, 50-52, 55-59, and 62-63 are not anticipated by Knight. Applicants have submitted a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, herewith, which demonstrates an earlier invention date than the effective date of Knight. Thus, Knight is not prior art to the present invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (408) 947-8200.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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